

**SCOTT GUIDES: TALKING POINTS FOR
FEBRUARY 9 EVENT - DOC**

! GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME.

**! THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT NOAA THAT I AM
PROUD OF.....**

– LIKE THE POSITIVE IMPACT OUR PROGRAMS HAVE

**–LIKE THE INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS OUR
EMPLOYEES COME UP WITH**

**–LIKE THE FACT THAT WE DON'T DO TOO MANY
THINGS ALONE....WE DO THEM THROUGH
PARTNERSHIPS.**

**! I AM HERE TODAY TO TALK ABOUT A SPECIAL
PROGRAM THAT HAS HIGH IMPACT, IS INNOVATIVE AND
IS ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS.**

**! IT IS CALLED THE COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION
PROGRAM.....WHICH IS RUN BY OUR NOAA**

RESTORATION CENTER IN OUR FISHERIES SERVICE.

! I AM HERE TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE OPEN AND READY FOR BUSINESS IN 2001 AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING PROPOSALS FROM COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERS AROUND THE NATION.

! THE PROGRAM ISN'T JUST ANOTHER FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM. OUR NOAA COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROGRAM IS SPECIAL; IT BRINGS TOGETHER THREE ELEMENTS THAT ARE VITAL FOR ADDRESSING HABITATS INJURED, IN PART, BY HUMAN ACTIVITY OR NEGLECT:

- ' FIRST, IT IS A GRASS ROOTS EFFORT. THE PROJECTS ARE IDENTIFIED BY LOCAL CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMAN GROUPS;**
- ' SECOND, THE REAL WORK IS ACCOMPLISHED BY LOCAL CITIZENS WHO WANT TO MAKE AN IMPACT; AND**
- ' THIRD, OUR NOAA HABITAT EXPERTS DON'T JUST**

**PROVIDE FUNDING, THEY ALSO PROVIDE
TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND OFTEN TAKE PART
IN THE PROJECTS.**

**! NOW, I'M SUCH A BIG SUPPORTER OF THIS PROGRAM
THAT I HAVE PERSONALLY TAKEN PART IN SOME OF
THESE.**

**! FOR EXAMPLE, I JOINED A KELP RESTORATION DIVE
OFF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTLINE WITH THE
ORANGE COUNTY COAST KEEPERS. I HAVE MONITORED
OYSTER REEF RESTORATION PROJECTS ON THE
CHESAPEAKE. I LED 40 NOAA VOLUNTEERS IN THE
CLEANUP AND REPLANTING OF THE WETLANDS AT
FORT MCHENRY IN BALTIMORE, AND 30 VOLUNTEERS IN
A MONOFILAMENT CLEANUP PROJECT IN TAMPA BAY
INTENDED TO SAVE SEA BIRDS.**

**! FEW THINGS I HAVE DONE IN THIS JOB HAVE GIVEN ME
AS MUCH SATISFACTION.**

! I've participated in these projects in several parts of

the country and I can personally attest that they work. They bring together government, business, schools, conservation organizations, and community groups.

! The program has benefitted almost every type of habitat that our Nation's living marine resources use—salt marshes, seagrass beds, mangrove forests, kelp forests, oyster reefs and coral reefs.

! WE HAVE HELPED BUILD fish passage structures and have removed blockages to migration. TOGETHER WE HAVE “refurbished “ salmon spawning sites in the Northwest, where erosion and silt accumulation have reduced or wiped out previously productive sites. AND ALONG SIDE MANY VOLUNTEERS, We HAVE planted streamside vegetation and shade trees to stabilize banks and keep summer WATER temperatures where they need to be for fish egg development.

! The NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program has sponsored 180 projects in 25 states over the past few years. SOME OF THESE PROJECTS....FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY....ARE BEING SHOWN ON THE WALL BEHIND ME.

! THEY ARE ALL ABOUT HABITAT....AND AS YOU CAN SEE THEY ARE ABOUT PEOPLE TOO! RESTORATION IS MEANINGFUL AND CAN BE FUN. AS OUR SHIRT NOTES, IT IS ABOUT FUTURE GENERATIONS.

! MY NEW BOSS, SECRETARY DON EVANS, IS A SPORTSMAN, AND HE UNDERSTANDS THE VALUE OF HABITAT. HE IS A BIG SUPPORTER OF THIS PROGRAM.

! I WOULD JUST LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT WHILE WE ARE HERE TO ANNOUNCE THAT \$8 MILLION IS AVAILABLE FOR THIS PROGRAM THIS YEAR, OUR EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT LOCAL PARTNERS LEVERAGE OUR GRANT FUNDS WITH AN AVERAGE OF \$3 TO \$5 FOR EVERY FEDERAL DOLLAR. SO WE ARE TALKING ABOUT

GETTING \$24 MILLION TO \$40 MILLION OF WORK THIS YEAR IN RESTORING COASTAL HABITAT!!!!

! I DO WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT HERE. THE CONGRESS, AND SPECIFICALLY THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES, THAT HAVE BEEN MAJOR SUPPORTERS AND WHO HAVE MADE TOUGH DECISIONS TO HELP THIS PROGRAM GROW. AND PENNY DALTON, FORMER NMFS DIRECTOR.

! Now, we've asked two of the Restoration Center's existing partners— Restore America's Estuaries and the American Sportfishing Association —to tell you a little about their experiences in the Community-Based program. But before I introduce them, LET ME BRIEFLY RECOGNIZE THOSE PARTNERS HERE WHO WILL NOT BE SPEAKING THIS MORNING.

! Justin LeBlanc, Vice President for Government Relations for The National Fisheries Institute; and Thor Lassen, President of Ocean Trust;

- ! The NOAA Community-Based Habitat Restoration Program has a partnership with the commercial fishing industry through the National Fisheries Institute (NFI) and Ocean Trust.
- ! The NIF is the trade association for the diverse U.S. fish and seafood industry AND The Ocean Trust is a national conservation foundation that works with the seafood industry.
- ! Currently, NFI, Ocean Trust, and NOAA are collaborating on three projects.
- ! **Sara Kaplaniak**, is here today from The Nature Conservancy. She is a Federal Policy Specialist within the Government Relations department of The Nature Conservancy.
- ! The Nature Conservancy, I think doesn't need introduction. It is an international, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving natural communities that harbor diversity of species on

earth, from the Channel Islands to the eastern shore of Virginia. NOAA anticipates strengthening last year's pilot partnership with the Nature Conservancy that began with three collaborative projects.

! Here to represent The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation are Tom Kelsch, Director of Mid-Atlantic Activities and Karen Hester Abrams, Assistant Director for Coastal and Marine Programs "NFWF's" Liaison to NOAA.

! The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation OR BETTER known as NFWF (*Niff-Wiff*), is a private, non-profit organization established by Congress in 1984.

! NFWF fosters cooperative partnerships to conserve fish, wildlife, plants and THEIR habitats.

! Since 1998, NOAA/NFWF have funded 24 community-based projects with \$625,000.

- ! **NOAA Fisheries and NFWF are working to stimulate habitat restoration projects that leverage Federal funds with private, state and local funding through conservation challenge grants.**
- ! **I encourage you to ask each of these individuals about their experiences after our speakers complete their presentations. I also invite you to visit their displays around the room.**
- ! **And now, to our speakers.**
- ! **First we have Mark Wolf-Armstrong,
President of RESTORE AMERICAS ESTUARIES.**
- ! **Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) is a national coalition of eleven regional community-based conservation organizations committed to restoring degraded coastal habitats.**
- ! **In Fiscal Year 2000, the NOAA Restoration Center**

and RAE formed a \$1 million partnership agreement involving the restoration of eleven major estuaries around the United States including the Gulf of Maine, Chesapeake Bay, Tampa Bay Louisiana's Mississippi Delta, Galveston Bay, San Francisco Bay and Puget Sound.

! Joining Mark today is the RAE's Program Director, **Steve Emmett-Mattox**.

Steve said a few words regarding regional projects associated with their partnership with NOAA.

! Our next speaker is the Managing Director for the American Sportfishing Association's FishAmerica Foundation, **Tom Marshall**.

! **Mike Nussman**, Vice President of the American

Sportfishing Association is here today as well. Mike is a good friend and a true great leader in conservation in America today.

- ! The FishAmerica Foundation is the conservation arm of the American Sportfishing Association, which helps industry and citizens IMPROVE fishery resources.**
- ! The NOAA/FishAmerica Foundation restoration partnership was established as a pilot project in 1998.**
- ! The partnership included 28 habitat restoration projects designed to benefit recreational fish and their prey species, for example, the kelp restoration project in California.**
- ! NOAA Fisheries and the FishAmerica Foundation expanded their partnership in FY 2000, announcing \$1 million available to help communities implement 44 additional coastal and**

marine habitat restoration projects at the local level to benefit our nation's fisheries.

! Also joining Tom are Johanna DeGroff and Sheba Rajput.

Tom said a few words regarding regional projects associated with their partnership with NOAA.

! As you can tell from both of these speakers, we are accomplishing a lot of great restoration projects with our partners.

! We are delighted to be in a position to both expand our existing partnerships and enter into new partnerships. As I said - we have \$8 million for this program.

! We are now prepared to answer any questions for our representatives or our existing partners. I will turn the mike over to Gordon Helm from NOAA Public Affairs to facilitate the questions. I want to

**thank our partners, communities, and volunteers,
and thank you for taking the time to come out
here today.**